



NEMO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

111E. Monroe • Paris, Missouri 65275 • Tel: 660.327.5125 • Fax: 660.327.5128 • TTY: Dial 7-1-1

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NEMO Workforce Development Board (WDB) Access Committee Meeting June 14, 2021

Members Present

Kara Berlin-Bates
Erin Dennis
Janice Robinson

Guests Present

Janet Hickey	Kim Cull
Elaine Henderson	Kirsten White
Dana Keller	Ron Williams
Chelsea Zabski	Mandy McClanahan
James Smith	Diana Murillo
Evan Keese	

Members Absent

Mandy Rose
Lisa Randolph
Wendy Hays
Lydia McClellan
Joe Gildehaus
Shyla Brauch
Stephanie Cooper

WDB Staff

Diane Simbro
Sharon Hillard

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Kara Berlin-Bates called the NEMO WDB Access Committee Meeting to order at approximately 10:00 am. The meeting was conducted electronically through Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Three Committee Members participated and a quorum was established. Eleven guests and two WDB staff also participated.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Janice Robinson moved to approve the March 22, 2021 Access Committee Meeting minutes. Erin Dennis seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROJECT

Diane said a Pre-Apprenticeship must be tied to a Registered Apprenticeship. The Pre-Apprenticeship Grant awarded to the NE Region was tied to Registered Apprenticeships at NECAC for construction/weatherization and LanDesign for landscaping. LanDesign serves many clients in the St. Louis area both residential and commercial. Individuals age 18 or older that are eligible to work in the U.S. are able to participate. The WIOA and SkillUP programs can pay the individuals for Work Experience while they attend classroom training if they are program eligible. Next, the individuals will work with the employers on site. St. Louis Community College will be doing the classroom training. The training focus will be employability skills and safety training. Next, they will work onsite with the employers. If successful, individuals can receive their OSHA 10 certification and a MSSC credential. The tentative begin date for the program is July 6th but staff can start enrolling individuals now. At least six people are needed to begin the classroom training. Diane said the focus will be on individuals with barriers to employment, non-traditional employment, individuals with disabilities and justice involved individuals. The partners were asked to refer individuals who they felt may benefit.

REVERSE JOB FAIR

At its last meeting, the Committee decided to hold in-person, Reverse Job Fairs at several locations in the region. The Reverse Job Fairs will be open to individuals with all barriers to employment. Possible locations were discussed. At today's meeting, the Committee needed to decide on tentative dates and towns for the job fairs.

- **Set tentative dates and towns to hold the job fairs**

After discussion, it was decided that the reverse job fairs will be held sometime in August and/or September. Locations will be Kirksville, Hannibal, Pike, Moberly and Lincoln County.

- **Select a committee for each job fair planned**

Janice said NECAC would like to partner with the job fairs. Kara volunteered to speak with the NECAC staff regarding the planning of the reverse job fairs. Diane said Job Center staff would assist with the job fairs in all locations. Chair of the Planning Committee for the Kirksville Job Fair will be Erin. Chair of the Planning Committee for the Hannibal Job Fair will be Kara. Chair of the Planning Committee for the Lincoln County Job Fair will be Janice. Erin, Diane, and Kara volunteered to help with all of the job fairs. The Committees will determine the dates and locations.

WDB UNDERSERVED OUTREACH AND STRATEGY PLAN

Diane spoke about the need to develop an Outreach and Strategy Plan for the underserved individuals in the Northeast Region so the Committee would be more structured. The strategies/goals set could be projects like the reverse job fairs and developing a resource list for the providers as discussed in a previous meeting. It was agreed that developing strategies would help the Committee be more purposeful with their time. The current strategy will be the reverse job fairs. Diane shared a form that might be used to help in the development of the strategies. She said ideas for additional strategies should come from the Committee and she would appreciate any input.

ROUNDTABLE – SHARE WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR AGENCY

Kristian White provided an update about her new role at NECAC and talked about the EYE Program which is an expansion of the NECAC SkillUp Program. Participants must meet income guidelines and cannot receive food stamps. She meets with interested clients after they've been referred by NECAC County Service Coordinators. She helps to direct their focus and steers them toward a suitable career path. She conducts mock job interviews, helps clients prepare resumes, cover letters and other documentation, and builds a profile on job search websites. She is signing up applicants throughout NECAC's service area. Funding for the program comes from the federal Community Services Block Grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided by the Missouri Department of Social Services Family Service Division. She will send a flyer.

Chelsea Zabski with Connections to Success said their focus continues to be on employment and education and they work mostly with justice involved individuals. Things had slowed down in Lincoln and Warren Counties and the classes were still virtual there. They are having in-person classes in Columbia. Things are going well in the St. Louis area as well. She will email the dates for the upcoming classes.

Diana Murillo, State Monitor Advocate Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program, introduced herself. She said the programs provides services to farmworkers and their families working in agriculture employment. She had been checking on the watermelon workers in Southeast Missouri.

Elaine Henderson, with Lincoln County Economic Development, talked about the increase in the homeless population in Lincoln County and the surrounding areas. She said they are looking for ways to address the issue and several programs will be going on to help these people. In order to address the issue, a lot of organizations would need to be involved. Elaine said they were looking at the Bridges out of Poverty model, which is a set of concepts that helps businesses, churches, schools, social service organizations and individuals address poverty in a comprehensive way.

Mandy McClanahan provided an update of the businesses utilizing the Job Center for hiring events. She said the FASFA Frenzy event would be held this week. The Kirksville Job Fair will be held July 22nd from 11:00 to 5:00. She provided an update of all the other upcoming job fairs as well. She said the Job Center was putting their workshops back on their calendar. Diane said she would send the flyers about the upcoming job fairs to the Committee.

Kara Berlin-Bates said they were beginning their summer work experience program and she would appreciate and referrals.

Janet Hickey said Job Center staff was working on their upcoming job fairs. She is doing outreach in Lincoln, Montgomery and Warren Counties. She said they were getting busy and they were short staffed.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME (Monday, July 19, 2021 10:00 am)

The next meeting was scheduled for 10:00 am July 19th. This will be an in-person meeting with a virtual option at the Hannibal Job Center.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 am.